

Message Text

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14

ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01 /032 W

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R 281541Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1476

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0570

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP TS

SUBJECT: MODE: REDUCTION IN USAID TUNISIA

REF: 75 STATE A-4171

1. I HAVE JUST COMPLETED MODE REVIEW OF OVERALL US PRESENCE IN TUNISIA, AND IN THIS CONTEXT, I HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT USAID EMPLOYMENT LIMITATION SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM 24 TO 20 BY JUNE 30, 1976, AND TO 18 BY JUNE 30, 1977. DESPITE THE FACT THAT AID CEILING HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 34 TO 24 SINCE MY ARRIVAL IN TUNISIA, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE PACE OF REDUCTION HAS LAGGED BEHIND THE REDUCTION IN OUR ACTIVITIES HERE. THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE WE HAVE PROVIDED UPWARDS OF \$700 MILLION IN AID TO TUNISIA SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND AT ONE TIME THE AID MISSION NUMBERED SOME 100 AMERICANS.

2. AFTER THOROUGH REVIEW WITH AID DIRECTOR, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT (A) AID PLANNING AND PROGRAM STAFF OUT OF PROPORTION TO OPERATION AND CAN WELL AFFORD CUTS; (B) LIVESTOCK PROJECT MOVING ALONG WELL AND NEEDS LESS SUPERVISION FROM HEADQUARTERS; (C) ESTABLISHMENT OF NUTRITION INSTITUTE NOW COMPLETE AND THUS FEWER NUTRITIONISTS REQUIRED; AND (D) TRAINING FUNCTION CAN BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG AVAILABLE STAFF. DIRECTOR JAMES AGREES HE
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CAN ELIMINATE FOLLOWING FOUR POSITONS BEFORE END

OF THIS FISCAL YEAR AND STILL DO HIS JOB EFFECTIVELY:
ASST PROGRAM OFFICER, NO. 269 - VACANT -- LAST
INCUMBENT, HOLTAWAY); AGRONOMIST POSITION, NO. 293
(VACANT -- LAST INCUMBENT, GRISGSBY); NUTITION
ADVISOR, NO. 290 (INCUMBENT, HEMAIDAN - ETD 2/76);
AND PROJECT MANAGER EDUCATION, NO. 295 (INCUMBENT,
MOGANNUM - ETD 6/76). IN ADDITION, I WOULD RECOMMEND
ELIMINATION PROJECT MANAGER AGRICULTURE, NO. 272,
POSSIBLY AT END OF INCUMBENT BUTCHART'S TOD IN
9/76 AND ONE FURTHER CUT IN PLANNING AND PROGRAM
STAFF, NO. 232, WHEN INCUMBENT SADLER DEPARTS 1/77.

3. OF REMAIN AMERICAN STAFF ON 18, THREE ARE
EMPLOYEES RECRUITED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WORKING EXCLUSIVELY IN FIELD. HEADQUARTERS STAFF
WOULD THUS BE REDUCED TO 15, MY ORIGINAL TARGET
FIGURE FOR A LEAN BUT EFFICIENT AID ORGANIZATION HERE.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS00570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760033-0859
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760112/aaaaajyc.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION MMO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE A-4171
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODE: REDUCTION IN USAID TUNISIA
TAGS: AFSP, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006